Department of Commerce • National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration • National Weather Service

## NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE EASTERN REGION SUPPLEMENT ERS03-2004 APPLICABLE TO NWSI 10-602 February 19, 2004

Operations and Services Tropical Cyclone Weather Service Program, NWSPD 10-6 Coordination, Backup, and Emergency Operations, NWSI 10-602

## COORDINATION OF LANDFALLING TROPICAL CYCLONES

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<SIGNED> February 5, 2004

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Dean P. Gulezian Date

Director, NWS Eastern Region

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- 1. <u>Purpose.</u> The purpose of this Supplement is to define coordination procedures between Eastern Region (ER) Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) during landfalling tropical cyclones.
- **Background**. When a tropical system nears the coast and tropical storm- or hurricane-force winds are expected, it is critical that ER offices be consistent when depicting landfall location and timing in their local products. Any conflicting information on landfall location and timing projections will confuse users and the resulting mixed message will undermine National Weather Service (NWS) credibility.
- **Procedures.** NWS customers and partners have been educated not to focus solely on eye/center landfall projections. Critical elements such as the onset/cessation of tropical storm and hurricane-force winds and eyewall/convective element features must also be weighed by users when making critical decisions. Every effort must be made to ensure that NWS products, media interviews, and other customers/partners contacts reinforce this theme.

The Tropical Prediction Center (TPC) is solely responsible for NWS tropical cyclone intensity and track forecasts. To eliminate any conflicting landfall statements, it will be the responsibility of the WFO in whose County and Warning Forecast Area (CWFA) the tropical cyclone is forecast to make landfall in to regularly coordinate with TPC to refine the location and timing of landfall. The WFO will then brief neighboring WFOs and the affected RFCs so that they are aware of the most up-to-date track and timing information and they can ensure all office's local products portray the same landfall location and timing projections. If the TPC landfall forecast shifts from one WFO CWFA to another, the coordination lead will be assumed by the WFO where landfall is now projected.